UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

IN RE: Case No. 08-35653(KRH)

701 East Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219 CIRCUIT CITY STORES

INC.,

Debtor. . March 20, 2009

10:13 a.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING BEFORE HONORABLE KEVIN R. HUENNEKENS UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT JUDGE

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In the matter of Circuit City Stores, THE CLERK: Incorporated. Hearing on Items one through nine as set out on debtors' agenda.

MR. FOLEY: Good morning, Your Honor. Doug Foley and Sarah Boehm with McGuireWoods on behalf of Circuit City. 6 me at counsel table is Ian Fredericks from Skadden Arps. Also today in court, Your Honor, from Circuit City is Jim Larkin the vice chairman and chief executive officer and Michelle Mosier, chief financial officer.

Your Honor, there are nine items on the agenda today. There's only, there's a handful of substantive matters that we'd like to go forward on. We'd like to deal with the procedural matters first if that's okay with the Court. Number 2 and Items Number 4 are motions to shorten time and notice period with respect to the motion pertaining to the sale of the Canadian assets as well as the motion to settle our disputes with Hilco and Gordon Brothers. Unless the Court has questions or if somebody would like to address either of those two motions, we'd ask that they be granted.

THE COURT: Does any party have any objection to the debtors' motions to shorten time in connection with the sale of the Canadian assets or with the settlement of the issues with Gordon Brothers?

(No audible response)

THE COURT: All right, both of those will be granted.

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MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Your Honor. Items Number 5 2 and Number 7 on the agenda also deal with the motion to sellers, it's with Hilco and Gordon Brothers. One is our 4 motion to expedite the hearing for today and the other is to 5 seal the letter agreement with Gordon Brothers that constitutes the settlement, Your Honor. The document that we are seeking to seal has been provided to the Court in chambers as well as the Office of the United States Trustee and the Creditors' Committee has obviously seen it and as you will hear when we address the motion, they have no objection to the contents of the settlement.

THE COURT: All right. Any party wish to be heard in connection with those two motions?

(No audible response)

THE COURT: All right, they will be granted.

MR. FOLEY: Your Honor, Item Number 8 on the agenda is the motion by ESI. Counsel is here today and I believe an order has been submitted to the Court that we have agreed to and I believe that can be removed from the docket.

MR. WIERZBA: Good morning, Your Honor. Daniel Wierzba on behalf of Engineered Structures. Counsel is correct that an order has been submitted. I believe it was submitted to the Court on Wednesday and other than that, this matter should be good to go.

> So that will be noted as THE COURT: Okay.

resolved.

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MR. WIERZBA: Thank, Your Honor.

MR. FOLEY: Thank, Your Honor. That leaves Items 4 Number 1, which is the sale of the Phoenix property, which Mr. Fredericks will address in a moment. Items Number 3, which is the motion dealing with the Canadian assets. Item Number 6, which is approval of the settlement with Hilco and Gordon Brothers, and Item Number 9, which is the carryover from last week with respect to leased cure disputes, and I believe only sub-matter F, the Cole matters will be going forward with respect to that as well as potentially Sea Properties, I understand that they have called in. So, Your Honor, we'll go 13 forward with the Phoenix sale.

THE COURT: All right, thank you.

MR. FREDERICKS: Good morning, Your Honor. 16 Fredericks of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom. We are here today to seek approval of the sale of the Phoenix property. Just by way of background, Your Honor, actually before I -- present in the courtroom today, as Mr. Foley mentioned, Mr. Marcum as well as Mr. Avallone from DJM Realty, the company's real estate advisor.

By way of background, this motion was originally filed on February 12th. It sought two types of relief, it sought approval of a stalking horse agreement and bidding procedures. It also sought ultimate approval of a sale of the

property. That motion was filed on February 12th. On March 3rd, the Court entered an order approving the stalking horse agreement which did not contain traditional bid protections and established bidding procedures including a March 13th bid 5 deadline and an auction date of March 18th.

Prior to, I guess at this point I would like to proffer both the testimony of Mr. Marcum and Mr. Avallone.

THE COURT: You may.

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MR. FREDERICKS: And they would testify that prior to the bid deadline the stalking horse bidder exercised its due diligence out under the agreement and decided not to proceed. Thereafter, on or prior to the bid deadline, the debtors received two qualified bids. One was that presented by Fresh and Easy and the other was that presented by BRG Properties. Pursuant to the bid procedures, those bids needed to be at least \$3 million. They needed not to be subject to due diligence, and they needed to include a good faith deposit. Both bidders complied with those requirements and thus were deemed to be qualified bids.

The debtors would further testify that -- Mr. Marcum and Mr. Avallone would further testify that they marketed the assets in accordance with the bid procedures and the motion and that they held an auction on March 18th, 2009 at which both bidders appeared. There was competitive bidding and ultimately the highest or otherwise best bid at the conclusion of the

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auction was that presented by BRG Properties in the amount of \$4,105,000, that the next highest or otherwise best bid was that presented by Fresh and Easy in the amount of \$4,101,000.

and Mr. Avallone would further testify -- or Mr. Marcum and Mr. Avallone would further testify that neither BRG or Fresh and Easy are insiders of the debtor, that they have exhausted their marketing efforts and these are the only two options by which the property can be sold, that the sale of the property is an exercise of their sound business judgment, that the consideration presented by BRG is the highest value for the property and the consideration presented by Fresh and Easy would be the next highest value for the property, that the considerations are reasonable, that there are no kind of due diligence outs under the agreements. The agreements were revised to incorporate a new closing date, in the case of BRG, I believe it's March 30th, in the case of Fresh and Easy it would be March 31st.

Under the sale order in the event that the debtors did not close for whatever reason with BRG, Fresh and Easy would be prepared to close on ten days notice. Mr. Marcum and Mr. Avallone would finally testify that the agreements between BRG and Fresh and Easy were both negotiated in good faith at arm's length and without collusion and the entry into the BRG agreement is in the best interest of the estates, and in the event they were unable to close with BRG, entry into the Fresh

and Easy agreement would be in the best interest of their 2 estates. With that, that would conclude the testimony of Mr. Marcum and Mr. Avallone.

THE COURT: Does any party in the courtroom wish to cross examine Mr. Marcum or Mr. Avallone? All right, the 6 proffer is accepted.

MR. FREDERICKS: Additionally, Your Honor, I have a -- there was a court reporter present at the auction and I have a transcript of the auction which I'd like to move into evidence as Exhibit A.

THE COURT: It will be received.

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MR. FREDERICKS: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: This has been marked as the Debtors' 14 Exhibit A.

MR. FREDERICKS: With that, Your Honor, we would request approval of the highest and best bid presented by BRG Properties, and at the same time the next highest or best bid presented by Fresh and Easy. I believe the parties are in a 19 position to close the BRG sale on March 30th of this year.

THE COURT: All right. Does any party wish to be heard in connection with the motion to approve the bid of BRG Properties?

MR. TRACHE: Your Honor, Dylan Trache from Wiley Rein appearing on behalf of BRG Properties. We would support entry of the order for all the reasons stated by Mr. Fredericks.

Thank you.

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THE COURT: All right. Thank you, sir. Any other party wish to be heard in connection with the motion? All right, the motion will be approved and the, for both the bid of 5 BRG and the backup bid as well.

MR. FREDERICKS: I believe an order has been submitted this morning through the BOPS system, so with that I'll turn it back over to Mr. Foley. Thank, Your Honor.

> THE COURT: All right.

MR. FOLEY: Your Honor, the next item on the agenda is Item Number 3, which is our motion to deal with the Canadian assets. Your Honor, by way of background and further introduction, in the courtroom today is Peter Teddy who's from Rothschild, he's director at Rothschild in Toronto, Canada and I will be proffering some of his testimony in support of the factual basis set forth in the motion. Also in the courtroom today, Your Honor, are representatives from Bell Canada, the purchaser, as well as their counsel, Jim LeShaw and Tim Bass are here and they will be proffering some evidence to the Court as well on behalf of Curtis Millen (phonetic) who's a representative from Bell Canada who's also here in the courtroom today.

Your Honor, the relief that we're seeking today has, in this motion, has three components to it. All of which to the extent necessary have been approved in the CCA proceeding

in Canada on March 10th. As Your Honor is aware, InterTan 2 Canada, LTD and Tourmalet are proceeding under their own insolvency proceeding in the Canadian jurisdiction.

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The three different aspects of the motion that we're seeking relief on today are all interrelated. One is the approval of InterTan Inc, the U.S. entity's consent to the sale of substantially all the assets of InterTan Canada, LTD. I'll go through that in a moment and proffer the testimony of Rothschild with respect to that. The second aspect of the relief we're seeking Your Honor, is approval of an intercompany agreement dated February 23rd by and between Circuit City -- Circuit City West Coast Stores Inc., then to and InterTan Canada that deals with the allocation of certain purchase price of the U.S. assets. And the last aspect of the relief that we're seeking, Your Honor, which is important to the first two is approval of the Photo Source settlement and coexistence agreement dated February 20th, 2009 between InterTan Canada, Circuit City West Coast and Photo Source.

Your Honor, Mr. Tetee (phonetic), if he was called to testify would testify with respect to the marketing efforts that the debtors undertook and InterTan Canada undertook as part of a sales process that was approved by the Canadian Court on December the 5th. He would testify to all of the efforts that the debtors made with respect to the marketing efforts, including the factual basis set forth in Paragraphs 10, 11, 12,

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13, 14, 15 and 16 of our motion that resulted in the agreement 2 that we're seeking approval of today, Your Honor. There were several confidentiality agreements entered into with respective There was a data room set up with respect to due diligence, and there were specific question and answer sessions set up with Canadian management team for those serious that were interested in bidding.

The asset purchase agreement identified in the motion, he would testify as a result of extensive marketing efforts, pre and post-petition and arm's length good faith bargaining negotiation that has gone on for quite some time and that Bell Canada's bid was the best overall bid received, and that Bell Canada is not an insider or an affiliate or sellers of the sellers' and is proceeding in good faith and is entitled to, and therefore would be entitled to a finding under 363(m) of the Bankruptcy Code.

Your Honor, the relief that we're actually seeking includes the sale of certain -- sale and licensure of certain intellectual property assets and trademarks of Circuit City West Coast that relate to the term, The Source and The Source by Circuit City. Some of those assets are actually being sold to the purchaser here, some of them are being licensed with the right of West Coast to be able to sell those at a later date provided that there is assurance that Bell Canada will receive a royalty free license going forward.

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Also, Your Honor, as part of the asset purchase 2 agreement, the shares of Circuit City Global Sourcing, LTD from Vinto (phonetic), which is the Hong Kong purchasing agent through which InterTan Canada sources its private label 5 products from factories in Asia and utilizes certain office space in Hong Kong for merchandising and quality control Those shares are being sold as part of the asset issues. purchase agreement.

And then, Your Honor, InterTan Inc., which is the $10 \parallel \text{U.S.}$ entity, the parent of InterTan Canada Inc., is consenting, obviously, to the entry of the asset purchase agreement by its subsidiary. The terms of the sale would include a \$15 million deposit, Bell Canada guaranteeing the obligations under the asset purchase agreement, closing date to occur between June 30th and July 31st, and the assumption of certain liabilities including real estate leases and other assumed obligations that are set forth in the motion.

As Your Honor may be aware, in Canada, under Canada insolvency law, landlord consent is required for the transfer, assumption and assignment of leases, and that's part of some of the preconditions to closing that need to happen before the asset purchase agreement can close.

Your Honor, the second aspect of the relief that we're seeking is approval of the intercompany agreement between Circuit City West Coast, Vento and InterTan Canada.

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1 Honor, the relief as part of this agreement includes a \$15 2 million payment from the proceeds upon closing to come from the Canadian entities to the U.S. entities. This is described as the U.S. asset purchase price as set forth in the motion. There potentially is going to be a future distribution on the U.S. entity's equity interest in Canada after payment of all the creditors in the Canadian proceeding. So one way to look at this \$15 million payment is essentially a down payment on future -- and with a potential for future consideration.

Also, the consideration that is set forth in the motion includes an agreement by the Canadian entities and the monitor to loan the U.S. entities up to \$35 million, the terms of which will be subject to further documentation and approval by this Court. But that is also part of the consideration for the consent that InterTan is giving to allow its subsidiary to enter into this agreement.

Your Honor, the last aspect of the relief that we're seeking is the Photo Source settlement agreement and coexistence agreement. This involves a settlement of a trademark infringement action by Photo Source. The purpose of this, and it's critical to Bell Canada's receiving essentially clean use of the intellectual property from West Coast and West Coast family of what we call The Source Trademark Assets. The settlement agreement provides that the settlement payment to Photo Source will be a \$500,000 payment being made not by the

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1 U.S. entities, but by the Canadian entities, InterTan Canada. 2 Historically, InterTan Canada has used those trademarks even though they belong to the U.S. entities, without compensation, 4 so the justification for the settlement payment coming from InterTan Canada was to make up for that historical use of that 6 property.

Your Honor, the other terms -- other than the terms that are disclosed in the motion with respect to the asset purchase agreement, they are confidential for strategic and competitive reasons relating to Bell Canada's interest in purchasing the assets, as well as I mentioned, Your Honor, the other preconditions to closing which include certain consents needed to transfer of executory contracts with lease parties.

And with that, Your Honor, I would ask the Court to accept my proffer of Peter Tetee's testimony unless anybody has any cross examination for him.

THE COURT: Any party wish to cross examine the 18 proffered witness?

(No audible response)

20 THE COURT: All right, the proffer's accepted, Mr. 21 Foley.

MR. FOLEY: Your Honor, with that I would turn the podium over to counsel for Bell Canada.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. BASS: Good morning, Your Honor. Tim Bass, I'm

Virginia counsel for Bell Canada. With me today is Jim LeShaw 2 who's been admitted pro hac, and I'll allow Mr. LeShaw to introduce the witness, Chris Millen, to make the proffer.

THE COURT: All right, very good.

MR. LeSHAW: Thank, Your Honor. Mr. Millen, a director from Bell Canada is in the courtroom is prepared to testify if necessary, but with Your Honor's permission, I'd like to proffer his testimony.

THE COURT: you may proceed.

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MR. LeSHAW: Mr. Millen is a director at Bell Canada and his responsibilities include mergers, acquisitions and strategic dispositions. He's familiar with the sale motion, he's read the asset purchase agreement, he was the person with primary day to day responsibility for negotiating the terms of the asset purchase agreement and the various transactions that are contemplated by the asset purchase agreement.

Mr. Millen would testify that Bell Canada is the largest communications company in Canada. It currently has unrestricted cash on hand of approximately \$3 billion Canadian dollars, which is more or less, \$2.5 billion U.S. dollars. That's important because there is no financing contingency in this agreement and that's cash that's available for closing the transaction. The purchaser under the asset purchase agreement is a company called 4458729 Canada Inc. Mr. Millen would testify that that company is a special purpose entity that was

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set up by Bell Canada, it's a wholly owned subsidiary of Bell Canada and it was set up for purposes of acting as the purchaser under this agreement.

I'll refer to the two companies, Bell Canada and 4458729 just as the buyer or the purchaser. Mr. Millen estimates that the closing date will be June 30th, 2009. The purchaser is able to close the transactions contemplated by the purchase agreement and intends to live up to each of its obligations under the purchase agreement. Mr. Millen has read and is familiar with the Photo Source settlement agreement and he believes that it's fair, it's reasonable and it's an integral part of the asset purchase agreement. In fact, one of the conditions to the purchaser's obligations under the asset purchase agreement is consummation of the Photo Source settlement agreement. In all likelihood if that agreement were not consummated for some reason, the purchaser likely would not consummate the transactions under the asset purchase agreement.

The purchaser is not an insider or an affiliate of Bell Canada. The asset purchase agreement was negotiated at arm's length and in good faith as were all of the other transactions relating to the asset purchase agreement, and Mr. Millen believes that the purchaser is entitled to a good faith finding under Section 363(m) and requests that Your Honor approve the asset purchase agreement.

THE COURT: All right, thank you.

MR. LeSHAW: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Any party wish to cross examine Mr.

Millen?

(No audible response)

THE COURT: All right, the proffer is accepted.

MR. FOLEY: Your Honor, with that, counsel for the Canadian Monitor is also here today, Your Honor, and obviously is familiar with the proceedings that have occurred in Canada with respect to the relief that we're seeking here.

Your Honor, I did want to point out one paragraph in the order, that is also in the order that was entered in Canada. It's Paragraph 14. Paragraph 14 provides that this Court request the aid and recognition of any court tribunal, regulatory or administrative body having jurisdiction in Canada or in the United States to give effect to this order, all courts, tribunals, regulatory or administrative bodies are hereby respectfully requested to make such orders and to provide such assistance as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this order. There's a similar paragraph in the Canadian order that says to the extent -- we hope we won't need any further orders with respect to this transaction because of the complexity and it being cross-border, but there may be a need for a future order, more dealing with the Canadian lawyers with respect to that, Your Honor.

With that, Your Honor, I believe all the relief that

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we requested in the motion should be approved by the Court. 2 All of the standards set forth on the case law under Rule 9019 with respect to the Photo Source settlement and coexistence 4 agreement we believe are satisfied. We believe the intercompany agreement is fair and reasonable and that the asset purchase agreement provides for fair value being received by the estate.

THE COURT: All right, thank you. Any party wish to be heard in connection with the motion?

MR. SMITH: Good morning, Your Honor. J.R. Smith from Hunton and Williams on behalf of Alvarez Marsal Canada, the monitor appointed in the CCAA proceeding. Two quick points, Your Honor. First, with respect to the intercompany agreement that Mr. Foley referenced to Your Honor earlier, his characterization of that agreement is accurate and the terms of the obligation to loan are subject to further documentation as agreed by the parties and of course this Court's approval.

Also, Your Honor, just to point out, one note with respect to the bar dates that would be imposed by the Canadian proceeding against the U.S. Circuit City entities and then visa versa, the U.S. bar dates that would be imposed against the Canadian subsidiary, by agreement, Your Honor, the two parties have agreed to extend those bar dates subject to the earlier stipulation that this Court entered. As it stands, there is no bar date that would apply to either one of the entities, and I

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objection to it.

think that's probably how it would proceed for the indefinite future. THE COURT: All right, thank you. Mr. Smith. MR. SMITH: Thank, Your Honor. MR. FOLEY: That's correct, Your Honor, with respect to the bar dates. THE COURT: All right, thank you, Mr. Foley. Any other party wish to be heard? MR. SCOTT: Good morning, Your Honor. Richard Scott 10∥from LeClaireRyan on behalf of the Bank of America's the agent for the post-petition lender group. Very briefly, Your Honor, 12 | just for the record, we would advise the Court that the post-petition lender group supports the motion and agrees in 13 the best interest of the estate to approve the sale and the other matters raised in the debtors' motion. All right, thank you, sir. THE COURT: MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Your Honor. Any other party wish to be heard? THE COURT: MR. FOLEY: Your Honor, we obviously have neglected to mention that we have consulted with the Committee with respect to all the terms of the transaction, they have no

I was assuming from Ms. Tavenner's THE COURT: silence that that was the case, but I'm glad that we've made that clear on the record.

MR. FOLEY: I don't think she has laryngitis though.

THE COURT: Okay.

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MS. TAVENNER: I have no laryngitis, Your Honor, that is the case.

THE COURT: All right, thank you. All right, Mr. Foley, the Court has reviewed the motion, the proposed order and the copy of the asset purchase agreement that was delivered to chambers for in camera review and the Court will approve the transaction.

MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor, the leaves the last two items on the agenda, Items Number 6, which is the approval of the settlement agreement with Hilco and Gordon Brothers and then the resolution of the lease cure disputes in Matter Number 9.

Your Honor, with respect to the Hilco/Gordon Brothers settlement motion, as Your Honor recalls, there was a first round of store closing sales that occurred from November 5th through the end of last year, approximately 155 stores. The liquidating agent under that agency agreement was Hilco and Gordon Brothers. The dispute that we're seeking Court approval to settle today under Rule 9019 involves the final reconciliation of the amounts due and owing between the parties, and we've been in negotiations, extensive negotiations for a couple of months with respect to that.

In the courtroom today, Your Honor, is Kevin Regan

1 from FTI Consulting and I would proffer -- I'd like to proffer 2 his testimony if Your Honor please.

THE COURT: You may proceed.

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MR. FOLEY: Your Honor, if Mr. Regan was called to testify, he would discuss that the dispute between the estates and the liquidation agent under the agency agreement involved certain adjustments to the cost value of the inventory and alleged concomitant adjustments necessary to the guaranteed percentage. As Your Honor recalls, the agency agreement that the Court approved essentially established a waterfall under which the proceeds would first be used to pay the expenses of sale, expenses incurred by the agent as well as expenses incurred by Circuit City. And then it would go to pay a guaranteed percentage of the cost value of the debtors' inventory. And in this agreement that was 72 percent. the proceeds would then trickle down to pay the agent's fee of 3.5 percent of the cost value of the debtors' inventory, and then after that the proceeds would be shared 50/50 between the agent and the estate.

We are pleased to report that as a result of that sale, we are into the 50/50 sharing. But now in trying to do the final reconciliation, issues have arisen regarding the information contained and used from certain cost files that the estate's provided to the agent that they allege were used to price the deal, and that the cost file values showed retail

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prices that were not the same as retail prices at the store 2 levels given that certain open box, clearance item and display items were discounted essentially at the point of sale. And so 4 through the negotiations, we disputed that for a variety of 5 reasons as to how aggressively they did the discounting, what cost files numbers they should have used, what percentage discounts they should have applied, and we've been negotiating with them for quite a while. They agreed to a final resolution of the number. Mr. Regan would testify that this has been a very difficult negotiation, but that we were able to settle the amount for less than half of what the agent was originally asserting was due and owing to them as a result of these adjustments.

And we filed the letter agreement under seal, Your Honor, because as Your Honor is aware, we have a much larger agreement involving many more stores that may have similar issues with respect to the cost file and we did not want the amount of the settlement agreement with Hilco and Gordon Brothers to unduly influence the negotiations with respect to Great American on the larger agency agreement.

The letter agreement has been provided to the Court in camera, the Committee has reviewed in detail the contents of the settlement and has been involved in some of the negotiations, the U.S. Trustee has been provided the amount. We believe that the amount is fair and reasonable and avoids a

1 lot of litigation and cleans the matter up with respect to the $2 \parallel$ initial store closing sale. And we would ask the Court to approve, I would ask the Court to accept Mr. Regan's testimony in that regard and to approve the relief that we're seeking in the motion.

THE COURT: All right. Does any party wish to cross examine Mr. Regan?

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(No audible response)

THE COURT: All right, the proffer will be accepted. Any party wish to be heard in connection with the debtors' motion to approve the agreement?

(No audible response)

THE COURT: All right, there being no opposition, Mr. Foley, the Court will grant the motion.

MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Your Honor. That leaves Item Number 9, Mr. Fredericks will address the Court.

MR. FREDERICKS: Good morning again, Your Honor. 18 Fredericks for the record. We are back before the Court today on the lease procedures. Specifically we are here today to seek approval of a few additional bids as well as to, I believe, address only one contested objection that's left. Over the last couple of days we either resolved or agreed to adjourn other objections or in one instance, I believe, an objection was withdrawn and I'll go through that shortly.

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Before we proceed there I'd like to proceed with

approval of three additional -- two additional bids and then 2 one backup bid. To do so, I propose reopening the testimony of Ms. Mosier and Mr. Avallone who testified at the last hearing. If that's acceptable to the Court, I'd proceed with an additional proffer on those locations.

THE COURT: That's fine with the Court, you may proceed.

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MR. FREDERICKS: First, with respect to Store Location Number 3150, Ms. Mosier and Mr. Avallone would testify that the debtors received one bid, that was a bid from the landlord. The bid provided for a waiver of cure amounts arising prior to -- or on or prior to February 28th, 2009 and provided for a general lease with respect to the lease and the premises. Since that proposal was made at the auction, it was accepted as the highest or otherwise best bid, since then the debtors, in consultation with the Committee have negotiated with the landlord. There has been an agreement on a mutual 18 release between the parties as well as the Syracuse Industrial Development Agency. With respect to the lease and the premises, the landlord has also agreed to waive ten percent of any rejection damage lease termination claim. The landlord has preserved its rights to seek payment of March rent through the termination date, which is described as the date by which we surrender the premises. I believe today we'll be surrendering the premises in accordance with the lease procedures order.

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With that, we would request -- Ms. Mosier and Mr. $2 \parallel$ Avallone would further testify that the parties negotiated in good faith at arm's length and without collusion and that this 4 proposal represents the highest or otherwise best bid, it's in the best interest of the debtors' estate and a reasonable exercise of the debtors' sound business judgment. And as I mentioned, we have been in the consultation with the Committee throughout this process and I believe they support the relief requested. That would conclude the proffered testimony with respect to Location Number 3150.

THE COURT: All right, Mr. Fredericks, Store Number 12 3150, which docket number on your agenda does that refer to?

MR. FREDERICKS: That refers to Docket Number -- it's 14 the Carousel location, I apologize. I'm sorry, it's Letter H.

THE COURT: Letter H, okay. Thank you. Does anybody wish to cross examine the proffered witness?

(No audible response)

All right, the proffer is accepted. THE COURT: anybody wish to be heard on the motion? Mr. Mueller, you wish to be heard?

MR. MUELLER: Briefly, Your Honor. Mike Mueller with Christian and Barton on behalf of Carousel Center Company, LP, which is the landlord for Store Number 3150. Mr. Fredericks is correct, we resolved the issues with respect to the landlord's limited objection under Item H and we've added the Syracuse

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Industrial Development Authority as a party to the settlement agreement. THE COURT: All right, very good, thank you, sir.

MR. FREDERICKS: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Any other party wish to be heard in connection with the Carousel Center?

(No audible response)

THE COURT: All right, that will be approved.

MR. FREDERICKS: At this point -- thank you, Your Honor -- at this point I'd propose to proffer Ms. Mosier and Mr. Avallone's testimony with respect to Store Location 3699.

THE COURT: And which number is this on the agenda?

MR. FREDERICKS: There is no actual objection. It's just noted at the bottom in the general up for cure. status as something we'd be going forward with respect to approval.

> THE COURT: All right.

MR. FREDERICKS: For this location, Ms. Mosier and 19 \parallel Mr. Avallone would testify that the debtors received one bid, that was the bid of the landlord. The bid proposed to waive any pre-petition amounts due, to waive any rejection damage or termination damage claim, but the landlord expressly preserve the right to assert administrative claims for rent due, including rent for the stub period of November. Ms. Mosier and Mr. Avallone would testify that this was the highest or

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otherwise best bid presented at the auction and that entry into 2 this proposal is in the best interest of the debtors, their estates, and as a reasonable exercise of their sound business judgment. And with that, Your Honor, that would conclude the proffer of Ms. Mosier and Mr. Avallone with respect to Location 3699.

THE COURT: Does any party wish to cross examine the proffered witnesses in connection with Store Location 3699? (No audible response)

THE COURT: All right, the proffer will be accepted. MR. FREDERICKS: With respect to Store Location 4305, 12 Your Honor, there's actually already been an order entered on this particular location, so I apologize, but it was listed in the general section as going forward. We've learned since then that an order's already been entered.

That would bring us back to, and this is not on the agenda, Location Number 854. As Your Honor may recall, at the last hearing we sought approval of the highest or otherwise best bid which was that presented by Vanquard Management Services for Location 854. I believe the bid amount was \$435,000. The parties have entered into the assumption and assignment agreement. Vanguard and the effective date was deemed to be March 17th, the date the Court entered an order approving it. At this point, Vanguard has not remitted payment of the amount. We have been in discussions with their counsel.

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They were under the mistaken assumption that they had 30 days 2 to remit payment. They've advised us that they are going to either remit payment by today or Monday. In the event they $4 \parallel don't$ remit payment, the debtors would like to seek approval of 5 the backup, the alternative bidder, which was Micro Electronics which also does business as Micro Center. Micro Center's bid was \$425,000.

Ms. Mosier and Mr. Avallone would further testify that this was the second, the next highest or otherwise best bid presented at the auction. It's \$10,000 below the bid presented by the highest or otherwise best bidder. Electronics stands ready, willing and able to close this transaction and is actually excited about the possibility that it may happen. The debtors remain optimistic that they will be able to close with Vanguard by Monday at the latest, and in the event they don't, they will -- they may seek to close with Micro Electronics. They would further testify that entry into or acceptance of this bid as the next highest or otherwise best bid would be an exercise of their sound business judgment in the best interest of their estates. And with that, that would conclude the testimony for the alternate bid on Location Number 854.

Does any party wish to cross examine the THE COURT: proffered witness?

(No audible response)

THE COURT: All right, the proffers will be accepted. $2 \parallel$ Does any party wish to be heard in connection with approval of the backup bid?

(No audible response)

Seeing none, that will be approved. THE COURT:

MR. FREDERICKS: I would like to add one other statement for the record. We have been in contact with the landlord. We did advise the landlord of the current circumstances. While the landlord has a preference for Vanguard, they did have no objection to Micro Center as a tenant on adequate assurance basis in the event it comes to that.

> THE COURT: Thank you.

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MR. FREDERICKS: With that, Your Honor, I believe that concludes the matter with respect to locations where we would like to seek approval. At this point I guess I'll turn to the objections that are, both objections A and B have been resolved. Objection C has been adjourned. Objection D has been resolved. Objection E has been adjourned. Objection F will be going forward, I propose to move that one until the end.

> That's fine. THE COURT:

MR. FREDERICKS: Objection G has been resolved. we mentioned earlier, Objection H has now been resolved. Objection I has been withdrawn without prejudice. I believe

counsel's here. I'm not sure if they, without prejudice to both parties. I'm not sure if counsel.

THE COURT: Anybody wish to be heard in connection 4 with Agenda Item I? Mr. Epps?

MR. EPPS: Good morning, Your Honor. A.C. Epps Jr., 6 on behalf of Glimcher Properties. Your Honor, we've agreed with the debtors to withdraw the objection of Glimcher Properties without prejudice to either side to any issue that was brought up on the merits, but just determined this was not the appropriate time.

THE COURT: All right, thank you, sir.

MR. EPPS: Thank you.

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THE COURT: All right, so that will be deemed 14 withdrawn.

MR. FREDERICKS: The remaining three objections noted on the agenda, J, K and L have all been adjourned. I believe that counsel for Seaford Properties is on the phone. I don't 18 believe his objection was listed on here.

THE COURT: It was not and I had granted his request to appear telephonically today last time we were here.

MR. FREDERICKS: The debtors understood that at the last hearing Your Honor overruled the objection. Thus I, that's the reason why it wasn't listed on the agenda. I wasn't aware until this morning when I was advised by a representative of your chambers that this would be back on the agenda today.

I'm not sure in what context it's back on the agenda.

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THE COURT: I'm assuming it has to do with the cure amounts. But I'll let Mr. Bentley advise us. Mr. Bentley, are you on the phone?

MR. BENTLEY: I am, Your Honor. Good morning.

THE COURT: Would you please identify yourself for the record?

MR. BENTLEY: Yes. My name is Darren W. Bentley. I'm an attorney with Clement and Wheatley and we represent Sea Properties I, LLC, which I'll refer to as Sea Properties.

THE COURT: Very good. And what is the basis for 12 your objection this morning?

MR. BENTLEY: Your Honor is correct. We had originally objected on two grounds. One of those, failure to follow bidding procedures, was argued and decided upon at the hearing on March 13th. The other matter regarded our objection to the cure amount that was proposed by the debtors, and that 18 was adjourned over to today at ten a.m., Your Honor.

And if I can speak briefly on that issue, Your Honor, I think it makes sense since there is no sale pending on this property and there are no bids on this property to go ahead and adjourn the hearing for a determination of whatever that final cure amount is going to be, to go and adjourn that to whenever we have a sale hearing on Lease Number 805, which is my client's lease, they're the landlord on that.

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There is, however, one matter that I wanted to bring 2 to the Court's attention today because it involves non-payment for March rents, which is required under 365(d)(3). And we did 4 allege that in our initial objection, at Paragraph 12, that the 5 debtor had failed to pay the landlord for its March 2009 rent. We have not yet received payment for those March rents in the approximate amount of \$20,000. And we have sent the notice pursuant to the Court's order that was entered at Docket Number 882, the order under Bankruptcy Code Section 365(d)(4), extending time within which debtors may assume or reject unexpired leases of non-residential real property. And in that order, the Court at Paragraph 7 ordered the debtors to timely perform obligations under the leases pursuant to Bankruptcy Code 365(d)(3), with, of course, the exception of the stub rents, and we understand that. But we did send out a 365(d)(3)notice on March 17th via e-mail and facsimile to debtors' counsel and to the Committee of Creditors and have not yet received any read receipts or responses from debtors' counsel as to the March payment. And so what we'd like to see happen on that, Your Honor, and we think it's reasonable, is that the post-petition rents for March be paid within five days of the entry of an order, or in the alternative, that the lease be rejected.

> All right, thanks, Mr. Bentley. THE COURT:

MR. FREDERICKS: Your Honor, first with respect to

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the adjournment, I have no objection to adjourning the cure 2 until either a sale hearing or a subsequent date agreed upon by the parties. If we ultimately proceed with a sale for this 4 particular location, if it makes sense for the Court's docket, we could adjourn it to the 30th, and subsequently agree to adjourn for hearing dates until we go forward with a sale of this particular lease.

THE COURT: It would probably make sense to keep it on the docket just so that we don't lose it and then, you know, obviously we'll just keep adjourning it until we have a sale and then we can take it up at the appropriate time if that makes sense to counsel.

MR. FREDERICKS: Yes, and we will contact counsel, you know, prior to each hearing. Counsel will be obviously notified to the extent we set up a new process or receive additional bids, we'll provide them to counsel in accordance with the lease procedures order. So the landlord will be kept apprised of bids or determinations we make as we make them. But we'll certainly contact him prior to hearings to advise him that at this point we're going to continue to adjourn the cure.

THE COURT: All right. And then this was a ground lease, and you want to keep the lease going forward so that you have an opportunity to market and sell the building that's located on the leased property.

MR. FREDERICKS: Yes.

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THE COURT: All right. So now with regard to the 2 March rents, you're still in possession of this property, is it the debtors' intention to make the rent payment?

MR. FREDERICKS: Yes, I actually just talked with my We're not aware today whether or not rent has been paid. We were originally only paying rent on -- we were going to pay rent following the date that we rejected or sold the lease, because this one is an unusual circumstance, this may have slipped through the cracks. But I've confirmed with my client that we will, if rent has not been paid for the month of March we will pay it in full either today or Monday. And with that, I believe that should resolve that issue for the landlord.

THE COURT: I think it resolves the issue as well. I'm not going to enter a separate order ordering the debtor to do that. I think that the order that I have previously entered covers that. And so that's without prejudice to Mr. Bentley being able to, you know, come back before this Court on a motion for relief from stay if for some reason he does not receive the rent in a timely fashion.

MR. FREDERICKS: Thank you, Your Honor. That's acceptable to the debtors obviously.

23 THE COURT: All right. Anything further, Mr. Bentley? 24

MR. BENTLEY: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

sounds fine. Just for my confirmation, the next hearing that 2 we're going to continue the cure amount objection to will be April 30th at ten a.m., was that correct?

MR. FREDERICKS: I believe it's March 30th at ten a.m.

MR. BENTLEY: Thank you. All right. Well, thank, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

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MR. FREDERICKS: With that, I believe the only remaining item is Matter F, which is the objection of Cole CC and related entities and I'll turn the podium over to counsel.

MS. PIERRO: Good morning, Your Honor. Kimberly Pierro on behalf of the Cole landlords. This objection concerns three leases, Taunton, Mesquite and Aurora and I am pleased to first report to the Court that we have had some movement on resolving these issues. About a day and a half ago we've entered into some dialogue with the debtors and for all three leases, Taunton, Mesquite and Aurora, one of the items requested for relief was payment of March rent through the rejection date, and I'm told that payment has been made on Taunton from March 1st to March 10th and on Mesquite and Aurora from March 1st to March 11th, and I just want to clarify that on the prayer for relief in the motion, Aurora has two items. One had called for immediate payment of real property taxes. That's an error in the body of the motion. Aurora was seeking

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payment of the post-petition March rent through rejection date. $2 \parallel So I$ want to clarify that and I've clarified that in my discussions with the debtors.

So those items have been resolved with just the one 5 reservation of rights if the debtor does not have an objection to, we're still confirming that those premises have been properly surrendered as provided under the rejection procedures order. So if that's not the case, we'd like to be able to bring that back. And that would just be a matter of calculation of the days. But we're comfortable with stating to the Court that that matter is resolved.

Then the remaining items, with respect to the Taunton lease, involve payment of real property taxes which came due post-petition and payment of a reconciled amount of CAM charges that also came due post-petition. These are in the prayer for relief Items one and two under subparagraph A for the Taunton lease. And we've been in discussions with the debtors and 18∥we've started exchanging calculations, and I do think that we would be able to resolve this with the debtors to make a payment or some sort or arrangements that are agreeable to both parties with regard to the Taunton lease. And I would suggest that we continue those items over to March 30th. I believe that is also the date that we had continued the tax issue -payment of the tax issue in Taunton previously from our previous motion for adequate protection. So if the debtors do

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1 not have an objection to continuance of those two items, and in the meantime we can see if we can resolve that.

The remaining items therefore involve the Mesquite lease and the Aurora lease. Two items, first with regard to the Mesquite lease, the Cole landlords are seeking to condition rejection of the lease on allowance of an administrative claim for the stub period rent in the amount of 35,862.67. addition, for both the Mesquite and Aurora leases, the landlords are seeking allowance of an administrative expense claim for real property taxes that have accrued on the property since January 1st through the rejection date. But I will state that those tax bills have not been received by the taxing authorities. However, Cole's position is that the taxes have accrued, they're a part of rent, and Cole's seeking an allowed administrative, it's seeking to condition rejection on the allowance of an administrative claim for use of the property and as part of that use, taxes have accrued. But as I have said, the bill has not --

THE COURT: But you don't know what they are yet.

MR. PIERRO: That is correct. We suggested using 2008 as a model for the amount of the claim, but I think that there are two issues there, the allowance of an administrative claim for those taxes and what that amount may be. We've suggested using 2008 as a basis for estimating those claims, but I think that they are broken down into those two issues.

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THE COURT: Why can't you just file a claim for administrative expense? I don't understand what you said, a condition of rejection. Are you suggesting that the debtor cannot reject the lease without somehow, you know, having satisfied the claims of the landlord?

MS. PIERRO: I don't think we're asking for satisfaction. With the remaining issues, there isn't a request for immediate payment, but these are outstanding issues that the landlords are seeking to have resolved before there's a final rejection, and specifically just the administrative claims and the allowance of that. But that is what the landlords are seeking is to condition the rejection on allowance of those administrative items.

THE COURT: But we reject leases all the time and then there are lease rejection damage claims that flow from that and you do that through the claim process by filing a claim, a proof of claim with the Court or request for payment of administrative expense. Why is this different? I guess I'm having trouble understanding that.

MS. PIERRO: I think it's just a matter of assurance for the landlord that wanting to bring these issues before the Court in the most expedient manner, and that is why it is couched in this term of objection. A conditional objection in the sense that the landlord's seeking that the condition be conditioned on these items. However, there will be an

administrative claims process. I do agree with that.

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THE COURT: Okay. And is this the same issue with regard to the Aurora lease?

MS. PIERRO: Yes, yes. I broke it down into issues, so yes.

THE COURT: Okay, very good. Let me hear from Mr. Fredericks.

MS. PIERRO: Certainly, thank you.

MR. FREDERICKS: Thank you, Your Honor. Fredericks for the record again. I think Your Honor hit the nail on the head, and this was precisely our point in discussions with counsel is these are really claims issues. 13 The only issue for rejection is whether the debtors have satisfied their business judgment. We believe that we have. also would object to having any of the matters raised in this objection to a rejection motion adjourned to a subsequent hearing. To the extent -- Cole has two things by way of context. They have the motion they filed previously, and there may be overlap with these issues. Maybe they're asking for all these same issues and the Court's already decided on some of them at the March, I believe three hearing, but this isn't the proper method by which to ask for allowance or payment of an administrative expense. To the extent that Cole has already asked for that relief and it's been ruled upon, we ask for the Court to live by its prior ruling. To the extent some matter

1 has been adjourned to March 30th, we have no objection to that $2 \parallel$ being heard. But to the extent that Cole's asking for new relief here, we think the appropriate method would be for Cole 4 to file a motion for allowance and payment of administrative expense on proper notice to the debtors and allow the debtors to, you know, appropriately respond. With that, we ask for Your Honor to overrule the objection.

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THE COURT: All right, thank you. Anything further, Ms. Pierro?

MS. PIERRO: No, Your Honor. But again, just to clarify where we stand as far as March 30th from the previous motion for adequate protection, the one piece, the Taunton tax piece was continued over to the 30th and I think that is on the basis that that tax bill had come due and it was a matter of what date was the rejection happening so we could actually talk about determination of --

THE COURT: So that's not up for today, that's up for 18 March 30th.

MS. PIERRO: Right. But a piece of that, the Taunton tax piece is, it is overlapping as Mr. Fredericks indicated. So I think that that should at least be continued over to the 30th, and the other matter --

Okay, I'm confused. Has the Taunton THE COURT: lease real property tax issue already been adjourned to March 30 or not?

MS. PIERRO: Yes. 1 2 THE COURT: It has. Okay. 3 MS. PIERRO: Yes. Okay. So what is the overlapping piece 4 THE COURT: 5 I'm missing? 6 MS. PIERRO: I'm sorry. That was previously 7 adjourned on our previous motion that was heard I believe the 8 third. 9 THE COURT: Okay. So that's not before me? 10 MS. PIERRO: Exactly. But the issue there was that there was no way to determine the amounts, because that lease 11 hadn't been rejected as of the third. It has since been, so this particular motion was setting an amount to that as a continuation. So I think that it does properly belong on the third as -- I'm sorry, on the 30th to deal with the payment of the Taunton post-petition tax bill. 17 MR. FREDERICKS: I think my point, Your Honor, was 18 was that there may be, what they're asking for here today in 19 this objection may be some overlap on the 30th. To the extent 20 they've already filed a motion and it's going forward on the 30th, then I think their motion should go forward on the 30th. 2.2 THE COURT: And that's what I think too. And so I'm

MR. FREDERICKS: Yes.

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THE COURT: Okay.

just trying to figure out what that was.

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MR. FREDERICKS: But I don't believe any part of this 2 particular objection to this motion should be continued to the 30th. In other words, they have their pending motion, they can 4 assert whatever rights they have with respect to that motion, 5 but any new rights or anything that kind of overlaps with this, this matter should be resolved, I believe, today, unless the Court determines otherwise.

THE COURT: You want these three leases to be rejected today.

MR. FREDERICKS: Yes, rejected today and for this 11 objection to be overruled today.

THE COURT: Okay, very good. The Court is going to approve the rejection of the three leases today, and I ask Mr. Fredericks to please submit an order to that effect. To the extent that we have anything carried over as far as any claims that have been asserted that the Court needs to consider or has previously been docketed for the 30th, we'll hear those on the 30th. But I just don't think it's appropriate to raise objections to a rejection motion by way of requesting administrative claims. I think those are two separate procedures.

MR. FREDERICKS: Thank you, Your Honor. One point of clarification. Under the rejection procedures order, the leases were deemed rejected on a particular -- as of the running of the time period in the notice. Would you like us to